

Remarks

As discussed with the Examiner Eashoo briefly, Applicants have incorporated features of the claim 1 of its co-owned and issued US Patent 5,954,601 in order to expedite the prosecution and allowance of this Application.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 83-87 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended the claims as shown and believe they are now in good form.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 83-87 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hawley (US Patent 5,165,941) in view of Jameson (US Patent 5,238,633). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons stated below and in view of the claims now presented.

Jameson discloses a method and apparatus for forming an extruded plastic lumbar product from a commingled plastic waste feed stock. The apparatus generally includes an extruder portion and a forming portion. The extruder portion includes a compound extruder which compresses and melts the waste product by a sudden transition within a constant pitch conveyor. From the compound extruder, the melt is introduced into a hot melt extruder which is formed so as to prevent vortex of the melt or mixing of the different resins. The hot melt conveyor includes a diminishing pitch along its length and a short transition section and metering section. The hot melt is then formed into a desired profile through a cross-head die in which a series of rovings are introduced into the melt. The rovings serve as a reinforcement for the extruded product as well as define the extruded profile feed rate. Because of a commingled blend of dissimilar resins in the feed material, there are often inconsistencies in the melt strength. The rovings compensate for these inconsistencies and provide an extruded product having the desired strength and stiffness characteristics.

Hawley discloses a multiple extruder apparatus for compounding thermoplastic resin and reinforcing fibers incorporates a resin extruder in which thermoplastic resin pellets are melted and a compounding extruder in which the molten thermoplastic resin is mixed in intimate contact with long reinforcing fibers of at least one inch in length. The melted thermoplastic resin is introduced into the compounding extruder at a point downstream of the inlet point for the reinforcing fibers, so that the fibers are mechanically worked and heated before coming into contact with heated, molten thermoplastic resin. The extrudate from the compounding extruder consists of a homogeneous, molten mass of thermoplastic resin having discrete lengths of fibers randomly dispersed therein.

Applicants have amended the independent claim 83 to more particularly focus on the feature that Applicants' method for compression molding at least one polymer to provide a compression molded part with integrally formed graphics, comprising the steps of loading a plurality of materials into a compression mold of a compression press, and situating a sheet or film containing graphics into the compression mold of the compression press, compressing at least one polymer and the sheet or film to provide the part having the sheet or film integrally molded therein and wherein the sheet or film comprises a graphics side facing away from the part, performing the compression molding step using a compression molding press.

Claims 84-87 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 83 and it is believed that these claims are also in condition for allowance for the reasons stated earlier relative to claim 83.

New dependent claims 94 and 95 have been added to further focus on the features of Applicants' invention.

For all the foregoing reasons and in view of the amended claims as now presented, Applicants believe all claims as now pending are not anticipated by the references cited by the Examiner, and accordingly, they should be allowed.

**APPLICANTS RESPECTFULLY REQUEST AN INTERVIEW WITH THE
EXAMINER IF THE EXAMINER DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS AMENDMENT PLACES
THE APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1287. Applicants hereby provide a general request for any extension of time which may be required at any time during the prosecution of the application. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any fees which have not been previously paid for by check and which are required during the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 50-1287. (Should Deposit Account No. 50-1287

be deficient, please charge any further deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 10-0220).

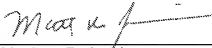
Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a request for an one-month extension of time.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned via telephone with any questions or comments regarding this case.

Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 16, 2006

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